

# Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey



## Journal



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[www.jcnwj.org](http://www.jcnwj.org)

Summer 2010  
Vol. XXXVI, Issue 11

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- \*Tuesday, June 1, 7:00 pm  
Adult Hebrew Class
- \*Friday, June 4, 7:30 pm  
Shabbat Services  
Oneg: O'Leary, Simons, Siedelhofer, and Berkowitz (Joel) families
- \*Sunday, June 6, 9:30 am  
General Meeting
- \*Monday, June 7, 7:30 pm  
Board Meeting
- \*Friday, June 18, 7:30 pm  
Shabbat Services  
Oneg: Koch, Trachtenberg, and Onweller families
- \*Wednesday, June 30, 10:00 am  
Religious Practices Committee Meeting
- \*Friday, July 30, 6:00 pm  
Shabbat Services followed by Pot Luck Dinner  
Oneg: Gross family
- \*Saturday, July 31, 10:00 am  
Bar Mitzvah: Max Gross



Have a Happy and  
Safe Summer!!!

### *Rabbi's Message*

I used to be more of a purist about observing holidays on the correct day. I still prefer going to Megillah reading on the actual day of Purim. And I like going to Shavuot services on the actual day of Shavuot. But when we tried observing those holidays on the actual day in our congregation, we got a very small turnout. And when we moved the holidays to the nearest Sunday, we got a large turnout.

Turnout isn't everything. After all, a minyan of ten is enough for a full worship service. In many congregations, the Shavuot service is attended only by the confirmands and their families. That just didn't work for us. So we made a conscious choice to broaden our Confirmation congregation by moving the service to Sunday morning, by including all the younger classes in the service and by finishing the school year together.

Some of the benefits have been predictable. The sanctuary is full and all the children get a chance to go up on the bimah. Parents feel proud and wonder where the years have gone. But there have been other benefits I would not have predicted. As I looked out from the bimah during the Confirmation service, I noticed the faces of the younger children as they watched the older children. We don't have to tell our younger children why they should continue their Jewish education through Confirmation; they can see it for themselves. They hear the older students talk about how much fun they have in Confirmation. They hear them thank their teachers, the very teachers in whose classrooms they sit now. And the Confirmation students look out at these younger students and see how far they have come and how much they themselves have grown. For just a moment, they remember their younger selves. And the teachers sit with glistening eyes, taking it all in, enjoying the appreciation and feeling the importance of what they do.

We are a people who believe in blessing the moment. Confirmation reminds us as a congregation to pause and enjoy that moment. It allows us to make a shehechianu together in gratitude for all that we have.

May your summer be filled with shehechianu moments.

Rabbi Ellen Lewis

## *President's Message*

Yesterday, I was lucky enough to attend the confirmation ceremony at our shul. If you were there, you would know it was another special day in our special place. The students were all well prepared and led the service beautifully. The sermon, while each one worked on their part separately, flowed into a wonderful and moving speech about the what makes our synagogue special. I read a lot of articles from other temples about what they can do to make their synagogue more inviting, warm and welcoming. We do not need this lesson. We have all of you, who in every interaction amongst yourselves and with the outside world, demonstrate that love, caring and community is what we do best. I am lucky to be able to lead such a wonderful group of adults, young adults and children in our journey in life.

As the Rabbi says, sometimes being small is a blessing and other times it is harder than in other congregations. At our congregation, we depend on everyone of us to do at least a little to help keep this congregation solid. We all know that if we say no when asked, there is a chance that whatever it was we were asked to do may not happen, because every one of us works so hard and so selflessly to assure our ability to thrive.

This now concludes my fifth year as president and, I have to say, I have not had a better year. The community is flourishing. My board members are taking care of their committees and planning new ideas. The Sisterhood and PTO are probably the two most energetic groups that we have seen here in a while. These women are making a statement about how they want their religious life to be. This includes fund raising for the temple, education, and outreach to assist the community, as well as making sure our co-op Sunday school functions smoothly. I am so impressed with their energy.

I leave this year with an appeal to please attend the **annual congregational meeting on Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM**. Breakfast will be served at that time and the meeting will start at 10 AM. PLEASE call or email me and let me know that you will be coming so that I can have the appropriate amount of food for us.

*Love,  
Howie*



## *A Message from Cantor Coyot*

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone at the JCNWJ for a wonderful year as your Cantorial Intern. In particular, I want to express my gratitude for the gifts and kind words that I received from all of you during my last weekend in May. Thank you so much for planning such a beautiful weekend to honor our year together!

At the Friday Night service I shared with many of you my Cantorial Journey, "Behind the Music". In my story, I shared my faith and the experiences that led me to become a Cantor. The most important part during my five years studying at the Hebrew Union College was my work as a Cantorial intern. It was working as a "cantor" as part of a community where the real learning, growing, and inspiration took place. After a hard week at school, I felt relief when I get to sing, teach, and learn with all of you.

It was always during my weekends as a Cantorial Intern where I was reminded of why I was working so hard at school and why I wanted to be a Cantor. When I heard your voices sing together, the spirit of Shabbat entered our sanctuary and I was at peace. Or when I taught music with Debbie Fesinstine at Sunday school, the smiles and enthusiasm of our children filled me with joy. And as I listened to Rabbi Lewis share her wisdom and Torah, I was inspired to bring Torah into my daily life. I am so thankful for a wonderful year with all of you. Thank you for teaching me what it means to be a loving community.

*~Tifani Coyot*

### **Wanted: Advertisers for JCNWJ Journal**

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## **September Journal Deadline**

The deadline for submitting articles, advertisements, and photos to be included in the June Issue is **August 22, 2010**. Please email articles, ideas or news items to Journal Editor, Abby Bauer, at [abbybauer@comcast.net](mailto:abbybauer@comcast.net).

## Memorial Plaques

If anyone is interested in honoring a loved one with a permanent bronze memorial plaque, please contact Helen Mattson. Not only will the light on the Memorial Board be lit at the anniversary, or *yahrzeit*, of that person, but the Rabbi will announce the name and *kaddish* will be recited by the congregation, as well.

Ordering a plaque now will guarantee that it will be installed before Yom Kippur

## You're Invited

The Gross family would like to invite the congregation to celebrate Max's becoming Bar Mitzvah. Please join us as we sponsor the *oneg* in Max's honor after the Friday night service on July 30<sup>th</sup>. You are also welcome to join us at the Shabbat morning service on July 31<sup>st</sup> in which Max becomes Bar Mitzvah. We look forward to sharing this joyous occasion with you.



## Graduates

### All About: AJ Seidorf

AJ is an Eagle Scout with 45 merit badges and 4 Eagle Scout Palms. He has served in a variety of positions in his troop and is currently the Chaplain Aide and a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. He is also active in Venturing where he has served as Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary of his Venture Crew; and is a member of the Order of the Arrow. AJ served on staff at Minsi Trails Council Trexler Reserve camp as an instructor for the Pulp and Paper, Insect Study, Soil and Water Conservation, and Space Exploration Merit Badges.

A member of the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey, AJ has earned both the Aleph and Ner Tamid Religious Emblems. His Eagle Scout project involved completing a recent renovation at the Temple by painting the Rabbi's office, three classrooms and hallways on the main floor of the Temple providing a pleasing and tranquil learning environment for Hebrew School students.

AJ is a percussionist that loves playing the battery. He is a 4-year member of the Golden Lions High School Marching and Concert Bands, and also played in the Orchestra. He also a member of the National Honor Society, Latin Honor Society and active in SADD, New Jersey Math League, the Latin Club, the PTSA and Music Association.

Giving back to his community is important so in addition to his involvement in Boy Scouts, AJ has supported food drives that have donated over one ton of food to the Open Cupboard Food Pantry. As a result of his community involvement, AJ has been recognized with the President's Community Service Award and Prudential Spirit of Community Certificate of Merit.

AJ will graduate from North Hunterdon High School in June. He plans to attend Marist College where he will major in Computer Science and minor in History.

## Congregation News

Chelsea Rose Friedlander, daughter of Dr. Brian S. Friedlander and Helene B. Friedlander of Long Valley, alumna of West Morris Central HS class of 2006, graduated from the Cleveland Institute of Music on May 2010 with her Bachelors of Music in Vocal Performance. Ms. Friedlander was presented with the Max Berman Memorial Award for Outstanding Vocal Performance at the convocation. This year, Ms. Friedlander won First Place in the National Association of Teachers of Singing Buckeye Region (Ohio), Second place in the Barry Alexander International Vocal Competition, Fourth place in the Irma M. Cooper Opera Columbus Competition and was a Finalist in the Violetta DuPont Vocal Competition, New York Lyric Opera Theatre Vocal Competition Division: I and the Dayton Opera Guild College Division Tri-State Vocal Competition. In the fall 2010, Ms. Friedlander will be attending the prestigious Manhattan School of Music, in New York for her Masters of Music Degree in Vocal Performance where her mother received her Bachelor's and Masters in Piano Performance. Ms. Friedlander will be studying with the head of the Vocal Department, Maitland Peters.



# Mazel Tov

From the JCNWJ

To Max Gross and the Gross family on  
Max's upcoming Bar Mitzvah.

## Save the Date

Summer Shabbat Service  
Followed by Pot Luck Dinner  
Friday, July 30, 2010 at 6:00 pm

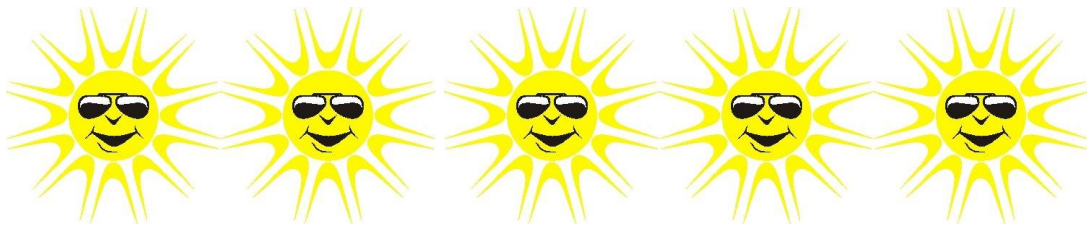
# Thank You

I want to take this opportunity to thank those members of the congregation who generously supported my bat mitzvah project. On May 27<sup>th</sup>, I presented Homeless Solutions with a basket overflowing with much needed supplies for the residents. They very much appreciated our contribution. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

~Abby Bauer

## JCNWJ GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, June 6, 2010  
9:30 am Breakfast  
10:00 am Meeting



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family a safe and memorable  
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Tues-Wed 9:30-5:15 Thurs-Fri 9:30-7:00

Sat 9:30-4:00 (9:30-2:00 During Summer)